

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 7143

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, SA
SUBJECT: KOREA AT THE UN

REF: (A) USUN 4933; (B) USUN 5559; (C) USUN 5620

SUMMARY: KOREAN EMBASSY HERE WAS INSTRUCTED EARLY IN NOVEMBER TO EASE OFF ON THE KOREA-UN ITEM. HOWEVER, KOREAN AMBASSADOR RAISED THE SUBJECT IN AN APPARENTLY CASUAL MANNER NOVEMBER 27 WITH THE ACTING MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHO REPORTEDLY WAS ANNOYED AT BAROODY'S INDEPENDENCE AND SENT HIM ANOTHER TELEGRAM ON THE SUBJECT. THIS MAY EXPLAIN BAROODY'S UNHELPFUL PERFORMANCE IN DECEMBER 2 DEBATE. WE HOPE THE DAMAGE HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN DONE BUT BELIEVE KOREANS HERE WILL NOW ADHERE TO THEIR INSTRUCTIONS AND LAY OFF. END SUMMARY

1. EMBASSY POLITICAL CHIEF CALLED ON KOREAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR KANG DECEMBER 4 TO DISCUSS PROGRESS OF KOREAN ITEM AT THE UN. IT TURNS OUT THAT KOREAN EMBASSY HERE HAD INDEED RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO STOP PRESSURING THE SAG ON THE KOREAN ITEM FOLLOWING AMBASSADOR SCALI'S NOVEMBER 11 CONVERSATION WITH ROK FON MIN KIM (REF A). BUT, LIKE A BAD TOOTH, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE EMBASSY HERE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO STOP PICKING AT IT.

2. ROK AMBASSADOR YOON RAISED THE SUBJECT WITH ACTING MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MAS'UD WHEN THEY MET NOV 27 IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEPARTURE ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO KOREA OF THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER. YOON TOLD MAS'UD OF BAROODY'S REFUSAL TO REGISTER SAUDI COSPONSORSHIP OF THE FRIENDLY RES IN SPITE OF PREVIOUS SAG ASSURANCES THAT IT WOULD COSPONSOR. MAS'UD EXPRESSED ANNOYANCE AT BAROODY'S INDEPENDENCE AND SAID HE WOULD SEND A TELEGRAM TELLING HIM TO OBEY PREVIOUS INSTRUCTIONS. COUNSELOR KANG SAID HE KNOWS THAT SUCH A TELEGRAM WAS SENT. IF SO THIS MIGHT EXPLAIN BAROODY'S GRIPING IN HIS NOVEMBER 29 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR BENNETT AND HIS UNHELPFUL DISSERTATION DURING THE FIRST COMMITTEE DEBATE DECEMBER 2. (REFS B AND C).

3. POLCHIEF POINTED OUT TO KANG PROBABLE CONNECTION BETWEEN AMBASSADOR YOON'S CASUAL APPROACH TO THE ACTING MINISTER OF STATE AND BAROODY'S NEGATIVE BEHAVIOR DURING THE DEBATE SO FAR. HE VERY STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT THE KOREAN EMBASSY HERE MAKE NO FURTHER APPROACHES TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, PARTICULARLY ON THE SUBJECT OF COSPONSORSHIP. HE NOTED THAT BAROODY CAN BE VERY HELPFUL WHEN HE IS OF A MIND TO BE AND THAT MERE SAUDI COSPONSORSHIP IS LIKELY TO BE FAR LESS EFFECTIVE WITH OTHER ARAB STATES THAN BAROODY'S LOBBYING IN FAVOR OF A FRIENDLY KOREAN RESOLUTION WOULD BE. KANG SAID THE EMBASSY HERE IN THE FUTURE WOULD STAY STRICTLY AWAY FROM THE ISSUE.

4. COMMENT: WHAT SEEMS TO RANKLE WITH THE KOREAN EMBASSY IS THAT THEY ARE CONVINCED STRONG INSTRUCTIONS WERE SENT TO BAROODY TO COSPONSOR BACK IN EARLY NOVEMBER. WHEN THE KOREAN AMBASSADOR TOLD THE LATE MINISTER OF STATE OMAR SAQQAF OF BAROODY'S DISINCLINATION TO FOLLOW HIS INSTRUCTIONS SAQQAF TOLD HIM NOT TO FRET; IF NECESSARY HE WOULD CABLE INSCRIPTION OF SAUDI ARABIAN COSPONSORSHIP DIRECTLY TO THE UN SECRETARIAT IN THE NAME OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER. SINCE SAQQAF'S DEATH THE AMBASSADOR FEELS FRUSTRATED. ANOTHER ASPECT TO THE ISSUE IS THE ANNOYANCE ON THE PART OF A NUMBER OF FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS (NOT JUST "AMBITIOUS

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YOUNGER OFFICERS") (REF B) AT BAROODY'S FREEWHEELING INDEPENDENCE. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE KING MAY FEEL FAIRLY STRONGLY ABOUT HELPING SOUTH KOREA AND SOME FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS MAY SEE THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO STICK A FEW PINS IN BAROODY WITHOUT HIS BEING ABLE TO APPEAL DIRECTLY TO THE KING.

5. WE HOPE THE DAMAGE HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN DONE, BUT

ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE KOREAN EMBASSY HERE WILL NOT TAKE
IT UP AGAIN.
AKINS

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NNN

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